



GREEK TURKISH FORUM (GTF) STATEMENT

15 September 2023

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) met in Cyprus on 8-9 September 2023.

During their visit, the GTF members had the opportunity to meet with the leaders, negotiators, and party officials, as well as the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

We are encouraged by the planned meeting between the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during the UN General Assembly in New York, following the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers in Ankara on September 5. We urge the two leaders to promote a Positive Agenda between the two countries. We believe this would also create a more conducive climate regarding the Cyprus issue.

The GTF believes that improving the bilateral relations between the two countries and/or reaching an understanding on Cyprus through the UN framework could constitute significant turning points and positively affect each other.

The GTF believes that a shared regional vision could be an important inducement for moving forward, considering evolving regional challenges. In this context, a need to reinforce trust between the two sides in Cyprus to create a positive-environment and pave the way to restarting dialogue is essential. To encourage this, specific goodwill gestures and measures need to be taken. The GTF will continue to work on the region and encourage both sides on the Island to develop and offer concrete ideas to build trust. Taking advantage of the positive atmosphere between Greece and Türkiye, all relevant parties should strive to contribute to efforts to reconvene substantive talks in Cyprus as well.

The GTF Members